

April 28, 2008

New Advisory Opinion

On April 24, 2008, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on one new advisory opinion, summarized below. Click on the AO number to read the full text of the opinion.

2008-2, Client Lobbyist Reporting Requirements Regarding Necessary Expense Payments to a Public Official

If a client lobbyist pays or reimburses a public official for necessary expenses*, the lobbyist is not required to provide a written report to the public official detailing the transaction in accordance with the notification requirement found in § 1-97 (d). However, within thirty days of paying or reimbursing a public official ten dollars or more for necessary expenses, a client lobbyist is required by § 1-96e to file a statement with the Office of State Ethics indicating the name of the public official and the amount of the expenses.

*"Necessary expenses" are defined as a public official or state employee's travel, lodging, meals and conference registration expenses for an article, appearance or speech or for participation at an event in his or her official capacity. Client lobbyists are permitted to provide such necessary expenses, as are other regulated donors.

Liaison Feedback

The OSE is committed to effectively reaching all state employees through the agency liaisons and compliance officers. In addition to providing this monthly communication to you for dissemination to your agency personnel, we have been providing our training materials for your use such as the online training, PowerPoint presentations, guides, handouts and DVDs (in addition to providing in-person training when requested). To determine what is working and what we can improve upon, we need your feedback:

- What is your process for sharing information contained in the monthly e-mails?
- How are you utilizing the other education tools?
- Do you have a FAQ that you would like to see addressed in this forum?
- What can we do to further support you?

Please e-mail feedback to me at meredith.trimble@ct.gov by May 16, 2008. I will summarize the comments and address on our plans for extended outreach in next month's message.

Best regards,

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